

Confusing Words

tortuous	plaintiff	Insinuate	desolate	ally
torturous	plaintive	incinerate	dissolute	alley

SOME WORDS ARE **CONFUSING BECAUSE THEY LOOK AND/OR SOUND MUCH LIKE OTHER WORDS.**

Tortuous means "winding."

Something that is **torturous** causes great pain.

A person who begins a lawsuit is a **plaintiff**.

Plaintive means "sad."

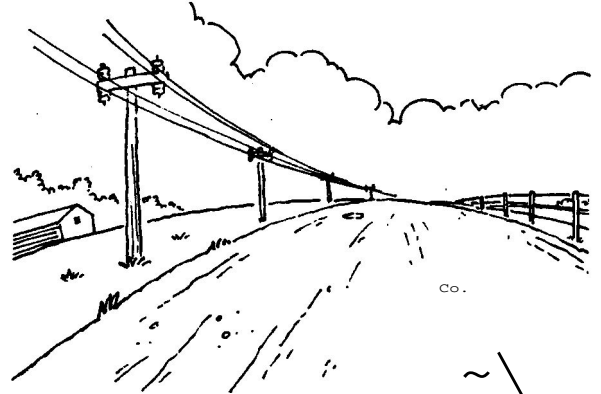
Insinuate means "to suggest in an indirect way."

If you **Incinerate** something, you burn it.

Dissolute means "immoral."

An **ally** is a supporter.

An **alley** is a narrow street.



Desolate means "deserted."

A. Read the words in each row. Write a vocabulary word that means almost the same thing.

1. hint, imply
2. lane, path
3. twisting, serpentine
4. barren, uninhabited
5. lewd, dissipated
6. anguished, miserable
7. associate, confederate
8. mournful, melancholy

B. Write a vocabulary word for each clue.

1. cause a flame

—

2. an accuser

—

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A. Use what you know. Write the best word to complete each sentence.

- In the hours just before dawn, the streets are empty and -----
- The _____ road zigzagged up the mountain.
- In this building, the city _____ its trash.
- Britain is an important _____ of the United States.
- The _____ story made Melvina want to cry.
- Did Zena _____ that your dress is out of style?
- The people on this street park their cars in an _____ behind their houses.
- Getting into the cold ocean water is _____ for some beachgoers.
- In this film, Connie plays a wayward character who is very -----
- Our neighbor is a _____ in a civil law case about his fence.

B. Read each question. Choose the best answer.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. Which one can you count on? | Dalley | Dally | O allee |
| 2. Which one can't be tortuous? | O airstrip | O trail | Driver |
| 3. How might a lost hiker feel? | O desolate | O dissolute | O dissolved |
| 4. What can be plaintive? | O food | O song | O shoes |

~ Writing to Learn

Write a science fiction story. Use at least four vocabulary words.